

PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE TRIVIAL NAME "PHILOMELOS" BREHM, 1831 (AS PUBLISHED IN THE BINOMINAL COMBINATION "TURDUS PHILOMELOS") AS THE TRIVIAL NAME OF THE SONG THRUSH

Application submitted by the
Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature of the
International Ornithological Congress

(Commission's reference Z.N.(S.)493)

Covering letter dated 19th October, 1950, with enclosure, from
Colonel R. Meinertzhagen, Chairman of the Standing Committee on
Ornithological Nomenclature of the International Ornithological
Congress

As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Ornithological Nomenclature, I beg to forward to you the following recommendation for favour of decision by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

ENCLOSURE

"*Turdus philomelos*" versus "*Turdus ericetorum*"

Turdus philomelos Brehm, 1831 (*Handb. Naturg. Vog. Deutschl.*: 322) ("Germany") is the name which has been used for about forty-five years for the Song Thrush.

Turdus ericetorum Turton, 1807 (*Brit. Faun.* 1: 35) ("England"), founded on plate 63 of Lewin's *British Birds* (2: 68) published in 1796, was adopted without explanation in 1934 (*Ibis* 76: 635) for the Song Thrush by the Nomenclature Committee of the British Ornithologists' Union, as it antedates *Turdus philomelos* Brehm, 1831.

In 1924 (*Ibis* 66: 158) the British Committee had rejected Turton's name, as Lewin's figure is not definitely assignable to the Song Thrush and possibly represents an American Thrush. This doubt still remains, especially as Lewin states that his bird is perfectly distinguishable from the Song Thrush, with which he was well acquainted. Lewin also states that his bird "has a short black mark passing through the eye," which is not a character of the Song Thrush.

It is therefore hoped that *Turdus ericetorum* Turton be rejected, in favour of an old-established name *Turdus philomelos* Brehm, as indeterminate.

R. MEINERTZHAGEN: *Chairman of the Standing Committee.*

J. BERLIOZ: *Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.*

E. STRESEMANN: *Zoologisches Museum der Universität, Berlin.*

JOHN T. ZIMMER: *The American Museum of Natural History, New York.*